

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USBERL 01030 191130Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 IO-06 SP-02 NSC-05
NSCE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 L-01 CIAE-00
PRS-01 USIE-00 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /053 W
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4399
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T USBERLIN 1030

LIMDIS

LONDON FOR ASST. SECRETARY HARTMAN

BONN FOR AMB. STOESEL

DEPT FOR EUR/CE

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV
SUBJ: US AND ALLIED FLAG TOURS IN EAST BERLIN

REF: USBERLIN 1023

1. IMMEDIATELY UPON LEARNING LAST WEEK ABOUT INCIDENTS
REPORTED REFTEL, USCOB INSTRUCTED ALL COMMANDERS INVOLVED
WITH FLAG TOURS THAT ONLY THE MOST MATURE AND EXPERIENCED
TOUR LEADERS WOULD BE USED TO PRECLUDE FUTURE INCIDENTS
INVOLVING BEHAVIOR OF FLAG TOURS. HE REITERATED PAST
GUIDANCE THAT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF TOURS WAS TO
DEMONSTRATE RIGHT OF ACCESS NOT COLLECT INTELLIGENCE.
TOUR PREBRIEFING AND DEBRIEFING PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN
EXPANDED.

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2. AT MEETING APRIL 18 CHAIRED BY BRITISH, THREE
ALLIES AGREED ON FOLLOWING POLICY FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE
TO INCLUDE MAY 1ST PARADE IN EAST BERLIN, TRADI-
TIONALLY A TIME FOR HEIGHTENED INTELLIGENCE SURVEIL-
LANCE IN EAST BERLIN. GENERAL PRINCIPLE AGREED UPON
WAS THAT THE EXERCISE OF ALLIED RIGHTS OF ACCESS

SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER INTELLIGENCE GATHERING FOR THE TIME BEING. PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT THEY SHOULD CONDUCT THE NORMAL NUMBER OF FLAG TOURS FOR THIS TIME OF THE YEAR BECAUSE EITHER REDUCING OR EXPANDING THE NUMBER COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A SIGNAL BY THE OTHER SIDE. IN PRACTICE, THIS MEANS THAT BOTH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH WILL BE EXPANDING THE NUMBER OF THEIR PATROLS IN THE PERIOD BEFORE MAY 1 AS THEY DO EACH YEAR. THE US DOES NOT EXPAND ITS PATROLS IN THIS PERIOD BUT GENERALLY ADDS ONE OBSERVER TO EACH CAR. ALL THREE POWERS AGREED TO ENSURE THAT THE MOST EXPERIENCED AND RESPONSIBLE SOLDIERS AVAILABLE TO THEM WOULD BE SENT ON THESE TOURS.

3. COMMENT: ALL THREE POWERS HAVE HAD THEIR SHARE OF UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCES WITH FLAG TOURS WHOSE LEADERS HAVE ON OCCASION BECOME UNNECESSARILY AGGRESSIVE DURING THEIR TRIPS TO EAST BERLIN. IN OTHER CASES, EASTERN HARRASSMENT WAS THE DIRECT CAUSE OF INCIDENTS. OVER PAST WEEKEND, BRITISH CHIEF OF STAFF ALSO FOUND IT NECESSARY TO GET MESSAGE ACROSS AGAIN TO HIS TROOP COMMANDERS THAT FLAG TOURS ARE PRIORITY SUBJECT AND THAT ONLY THE BEST SOLDIERS SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN THEM.

4. PARTICIPANTS AT APRIL 19 MEETING ALSO AGREED THAT AFTER A RESPONSE IS MADE TO THE SOVIET APPROACH ON FLAG TOURS, THE LIKELIHOOD OF DELIBERATE HARRASSMENT WILL INCREASE AND THAT THE NEED FOR EXEXPLARY CONDUCT
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ON OUR PART WILL BECOME ALL THE GREATER. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ACTION TAKEN BY USCOB WILL ENSURE THAT OUR FLAG TOURS WILL TAKE PLACE IN INCIDENT-FREE FASHION UNLESS OF COURSE THE OTHER SIDE RESORTS TO DELIBERATE HARRASSMENT.GEORGE

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